

Message Text

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APPROVED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

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AF/E:WBCOOTE (DRAFT)

L/HR:CRUNYON (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, ICRC

SUBJECT: ICRC OPERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

REF: GENEVA 867

1. FOR ADDIS: WE WISH TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO FACILITATE OPERATIONS ICRC IN ETHIOPIA DURING PRESENT CONFLICT. ETHIOPIA IS A PARTY TO THE FOUR 1949 RED CROSS CONVENTIONS (6 UST 3114 AND FOLLOWING) AND TO THE 1929 RED CROSS CONVENTION (TS 847, 2 BEVANS 965). COMMON TO 1949 CONVENTIONS IS ARTICLE 3, "CONFLICTS NOT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER", RESPECTING WHICH THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT ARE BOUND TO APPLY, AS A MINIMUM, PROVISIONS TO PROTECT PERSONS TAKING NO ACTIVE PART IN THE HOSTILITIES AND TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THE WOUNDED AND SICK. THE US, AS
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A PARTY TO THE RED CROSS CONVENTIONS IS BOUND BY ARTICLE 1

OF EACH AGREEMENT "TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR THE PRESENT CONVENTION IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES". PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THE REFERENCE TO THE ICRC IN ARTICLES 3, EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ASSIST ACTIVITIES OF ICRC IN ETHIOPIA.

2. WHILE WE HAVE OBLIGATION TO RED CROSS CONVENTIONS AND TO ROLE OF ICRC IRRESPECTIVE OF ACTIONS OF OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONVENTIONS, WE PREFER THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS TO PMG BE COORDINATED WITH THAT OF OTHER INVOLVED PARTIES,

PARTICULARLY ITALY AND SUDAN, SINCE ICRC HAS MADE SEPARATE REQUEST FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.

3. FOR GENEVA: IT NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR FROM REFTEL EXACTLY WHAT ICRC DELEGATION IN ETHIOPIA WISHES TO ACCOMPLISH. ANY REPRESENTATION WE MAKE TO PMG RESPECTING ICRC FUNCTIONS IN ETHIOPIA WOULD BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC DESIRABLE ACTIVITIES OF ICRC WHICH IT CANNOT NOW CARRY OUT. THEREFORE, REQUEST YOU CONTACT ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL TO SEE IF HE CAN SPECIFY MORE CLEARLY THAT WHICH ICRC DELEGATION ETHIOPIA INTENDS. MISSION SHOULD CABLE REPLY TO DEPT, INFO OTHER ADDRESSEES.

4. FOR ADDIS: IN ORDER NOT TO LOSE TIME, SUGGEST THAT YOU CONTACT ICRC DELEGATION FOR APPRAISAL OF ITS INTENTIONS AND PURPOSES, REPORT OF WHICH SHOULD BE CABLED TO DEPT, INFO OTHER ADDRESSEES, ALONG WITH REPORT OF INTENTIONS ITALIAN AND SUDANESE EMBASSIES.

5. FOR KHARTOUM AND ROME: WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT OF INTENTIONS GOS AND GOI RESPECTING ICRC REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. INGERSOLL

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